

House Bill 80

By: Representatives Sims of the 169th, Jones of the 46th, Greene of the 149th, and Hembree of the 67th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to change certain provisions regarding apportionment of public library funds to county and regional public libraries; to require a state audit of each library system with certain exceptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to relating to education, is amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-305, relating to county and regional libraries, and inserting in its place a new subsection to read as follows:

"(a) The board of regents shall annually determine and request of the General Assembly the amount of funds needed for county and regional public libraries. This request shall include, but not be limited to, funds to provide library books and materials, salaries and travel for professional librarians, capital outlay for public library construction, and maintenance and operation. The amount for library books and materials shall be not less than 35¢ per person. Funds for the purpose of paying the salaries of librarians allotted shall be in accordance with regulations established by the state board and the state minimum salary schedule for certificated professional personnel. Public library funds shall be apportioned to county and regional public libraries in proportion to the area and population to be served by such libraries in accordance with regulations and minimum public library requirements prescribed by the state board; local economic conditions shall also be considered in apportioning funds.

All such funds shall be distributed directly to the regional or county library boards."

SECTION 2.

Said title is further amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 20-5-46, relating to reports of the library system, and inserting in its place a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-5-46.

1 The library system shall make such reports as deemed necessary by local and state funding
2 agencies. In every case at least an annual report of activities, income, and expenditures shall
3 be filed with each funding agency. Each library system shall be subject to an annual financial
4 audit conducted by the state auditor unless the library board hires an independent accountant
5 or the system is party to a county government audit. The library system must file its audit
6 with the Georgia Public Library Service."

7 **SECTION 3.**

8 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.